

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 128267

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 16415 ACTION SECSTATE JUN 4.

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 16415

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR VN US

SUBJ: US/SRV MEETINGS: FLASH SUMMARY REPORT

16317

1. HOLBROOKE OPENED SESSION WITH EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION ON 20 MIAS. HE THEN ADDRESSED SRV PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE, STRESSING INABILITY OF USG TO ACCEPT VIETNAMESE DEMANDS FOR AID IN POINT 2 BUT REITERATING US READINESS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. PHAN HIEN RESPONDED BY REGRETTING WE HAD BROUGHT NOTHING NEW TO TALKS SINCE MAY SESSIONS, IN CONTRAST TO HANOI'S POSITIVE ACTION IN MAKING

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AVAILABLE NEW MIA INFORMATION. HE SUBSEQUENTLY ATTEMPTED IN VARIOUS WAYS TO NEGOTIATE HIS PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE, PARTICULARLY POINT 2. WE REITERATED WE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS POINT BUT COULD AGREE GENERALLY ON POINTS 1 (ON MIA'S) AND 3 (ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS). WE PROBED WHETHER HIEN WOULD BE WILLING TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS NOW, BUT HE MADE

CLEAR THAT THERE COULD BE NO POINT 3 WITHOUT POINT 2.

2. HIEN EXPRESSED DISCOURAGEMENT WITH LACK OF PROGRESS AND INDICATED HIS CONCERN OVER HOW HE COULD EXPLAIN LACK OF FURTHER US STEPS AND "REJECTION" OF HIEN COMMUNIQUE TO HANOI. HE IMPLIED THAT BRINGING BACK SUCH NEWS WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON HIS ABILITY TO SPUR ADDITIONAL ACTION ON MIA'S. WE SAID WE WERE NOT DISCOURAGED WITH PROGRESS SO FAR, THAT SUCH PROGRESS MUST BE MEASURED OVER PERIOD OF LAST SEVERAL MONTHS IN WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY COME A LONG WAY, ON SUCH MATTERS AS MIA, UN MEMBERSHIP, EASING OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, PROPOSED LIFTING OF TRADE EMBARGO, ETC. WE EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY CONTINUE TO APPROACH ISSUE WITH GOODWILL AND DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARD FULL RECONCILIATION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MENTION OF EMBARGO, HIEN MADE PITCH FOR LIFTING OF IT APART FROM ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. HE CLAIMED EMBARGO ONLY PLACES US COMPANIES AT A DISADVANTAGE AND ITS RETENTION CASTS DOUBT ON US INTENTION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

4. WE AGREED TO A NEXT MEETING WITHOUT FIXING A SPECIFIC TIME OR PLACE.

5. WE ALSO AGREED ON PRESS HANDLING FOLLOWING MEETING. THERE WERE NO PRESS CONFERENCES BY EITHER SIDE, BUT BOTH PRINCIPALS MADE BRIEF STATEMENTS AND ANSWERED
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A FEW QUESTIONS FROM PRESS ON SRV DEL'S DEPARTURE FROM EMBASSY. HIEN ANNOUNCED PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON 20 MIA CASES, SAID HE HAD PRESENTED IN GREATER DETAIL SRV'S POSITION RE THREE "INTERRELATED" PROBLEMS, AND NOTED ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS WAS CORDIAL DESPITE CONTINUED DIFFERENCES. HOLBROOKE FOLLOWED WITH BRIEF STATEMENT NOTING AGREEMENT ON NEXT MEETING WITHOUT A SPECIFIED DATE OR PLACE, NOTED THAT FAMILIES ARE BEING INFORMED OF NEW INFORMATION ON MIA AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES UNTIL REMAINS RETURNED AND IDENTIFIED, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS POSITIVE ACTION BY SRV.
GAMMON UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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